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## Newest 26 missionaries commissioned

LANSING, Mich. (BP) — To rousing applause from Michigan's largest Southern Baptist gathering ever, the SBC's 26 newest international missionaries shared stories of their calls, including testimonies of dramatic overseas adventures that etched into their hearts love and concern for those dying daily without Christ.

"I came to America 19 years ago to escape the oppression of communism in Laos," said Dena McNally, who along with her husband, Marty, was commissioned for service among the unreached Asheninka Indians in Peru. "Then 14 years ago, God saved me in a youth revival at First Church of Houston, Texas.

"My faith has cost me my family," she said. "But God has done so much for me that I want to take this message of hope and salvation to people who have never heard of him. This is the least I can do for Jesus, my Lord."

Another couple, whose names cannot be released because they are going to a part of the world sometimes hostile to missionaries, told about being English teachers in East Asia for 12 years and how that influenced their call today.

"When I first arrived I didn't understand the culture," she said. "I couldn't speak the language or even read a street sign. But in my heart I knew I was home. That was when I

knew God had called me to invest my life among the unreached peoples of World A.

"He asked me to give him my own plans and dreams, and I praise God that now his dreams have become my deepest desires as we go to serve in Central and Southern Asia," she said.

During the International Mission Board's (IMB) commissioning service March 23 in Lansing's Holiday Inn-South Convention Center, 40 people



RETURNING TO UKRAINE -- While serving as a two-year missionary in Ukraine, Beth Wilson (right) saw people hungry for something to believe in. That experience convinced her God was calling her back to Ukraine as a career missionary. Wilson was among 26 new Southern Baptist missionaries appointed by the International Mission Board (IMB) and congratulated by IMB president Jerry Rankin (left) March 23 in Lansing, Mich. (BP photo by Sandy King)

responded to the invitation to make a commitment to missions. It was one of the largest responses ever to an invitation at a commissioning service.

Appointee Jim Black of Emporia, Kan., told about attending a Buddhist funeral service for a college student in Bangkok, where a non-Christian student asked him, "What will happen to my friend now?"

"I wanted to tell him everything would be OK, but inside I knew she would go to hell. God used this event to confirm his calling on my life."

Black and his wife, Marilyn, will be returning to Thailand to minister to students.

"As a junior in college, I was an exchange student to the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan," said Jeff Brawner of Memphis, Tenn. "It was there that I looked around and saw the lostness of thousands of people — not because they had rejected the gospel, but because they had never heard."

He and his wife, Christy Akins Brawner, will go to Brazil to work with the Cearense people group.

Appointee Beth Wilson told about going to the Ukraine in 1995 to serve two years as an International Service Corps worker with university students.

"For 75 years, the government told the people that there is no God," she said. "Now they have the freedom to openly worship God."

IMB President Jerry Rankin told the audience of some 1,200 people that a Christian can truly determine whether he or she belongs overseas only after yielding to the possibility God could be calling him or her overseas.

"He [God] may want you to stay right here in Michigan, but how will you know unless you are willing to say, 'Here am I, Lord, send me [anywhere]?' " Rankin said.

Citing Isaiah 6, Rankin said God has issued a generic call to all Christians to carry the gospel worldwide, and he is waiting for believers to respond.

### S&H to offer digital resources

MACON, Ga. (ABP) — Smyth and Helwys (S&H) Publishing has announced the launch of NextSunday.com, which the company claims is the first online source dedicated exclusively to digital resources for worship and Christian education.

The World Wide Web site offers church resources for download in the "portable digital file," or "PDF" format. Shoppers purchase a license allowing them to make a limited number of copies for use by Sunday-School classes or other groups.

The site is designed to save time and money and provide ministers and teachers a greater choice of resource materials, said a spokesman for the Christian publishing house in Macon, Ga.

"Because of the cost savings for churches, and the wider variety of materials we will be able to offer, we believe NextSunday.com represents the future of resource publishing," said David Cassidy, project director.

The site was expected to offer 30 resources at launch, mostly in the teaching area, and add products each week, surpassing 200 by the end of 1999, according to a news release.

A sample study of five lessons on Jesus in Galilee costs \$11, according to the Web site, compared to an estimated \$24 price tag for the same material produced in the traditional way.

The site can be found at [www.nextsunday.com](http://www.nextsunday.com).

### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

Richard D. Land is installed as the fifth executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. Land was challenged by SBC president Jerry Vines, and by theologian/author Carl F. H. Henry to link faith with action, words with deeds, and example with leadership.

#### 20 years ago

Completion is nearing for the construction of a 35' by 82' swimming pool, with an additional 20' by 30' shallow area for younger swimmers, at Central Hills Baptist Retreat in Attala County, according to Levon Moore, of Kosciusko, chairman of the development committee.

#### 50 years ago

C. Penrose St. Amant, professor of church history and theology at New Orleans Seminary, will lead in revival services at Second Church, Kosciusko, during the week of April 17. M. H. Fields, pastor of First Church, Slidell, La., will lead music. D. S. Homan is pastor.

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Bible distribution begins

3

WMU sets FOCUS

4

Directions

5

Letters to the editor

6

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# No Jesus, no peace

**T**he video news clip was enough to move all but the most hard-hearted. Hiding by day and moving at night, the Kosovar man had somehow managed to escape the Serbian pogrom in his small village with only the clothes he was wearing.

For seven days he stood at a Macedonian border crossing, leaning into every fleeing automobile and asking for any news of the wife and two young daughters he was forced to abandon inside Kosovo. He took little time to eat or sleep, for fear of missing even the tiniest shred of information about them.

In the unceasing cold rain and never-ending stream of refugees, everyone believed he was on an impossible mission. Then the impossible indeed happened.

Of the 200,000 Kosovars flooding out of the country at dozens of border crossings into several surrounding countries, he spotted his family in the back seat of an old automobile at the same crossing through which he had reached safety. By the providence of God and the kindness of a stranger with an already-overloaded car, one family among thousands had been reunited.

Unable to speak a single word, their emotional wails of joy/grief were unforgettable. They had lost every material possession they ever owned and had no idea from whence their next meal would come, but they were a family again and for a moment, that was all that really mattered.

As the death and resurrection of the Prince of Peace was observed last weekend around the world, there was no peace in Kosovo. Hatred grew, innocent people died, a war was prosecuted, and a tired planet groaned once again.

Oh, how the world needs to know Jesus. If the world knew Jesus, there would be no such phrase as "ethnic cleansing." If the world knew Jesus, children would not be going hungry in muddy, disease-ridden

refugee camps.

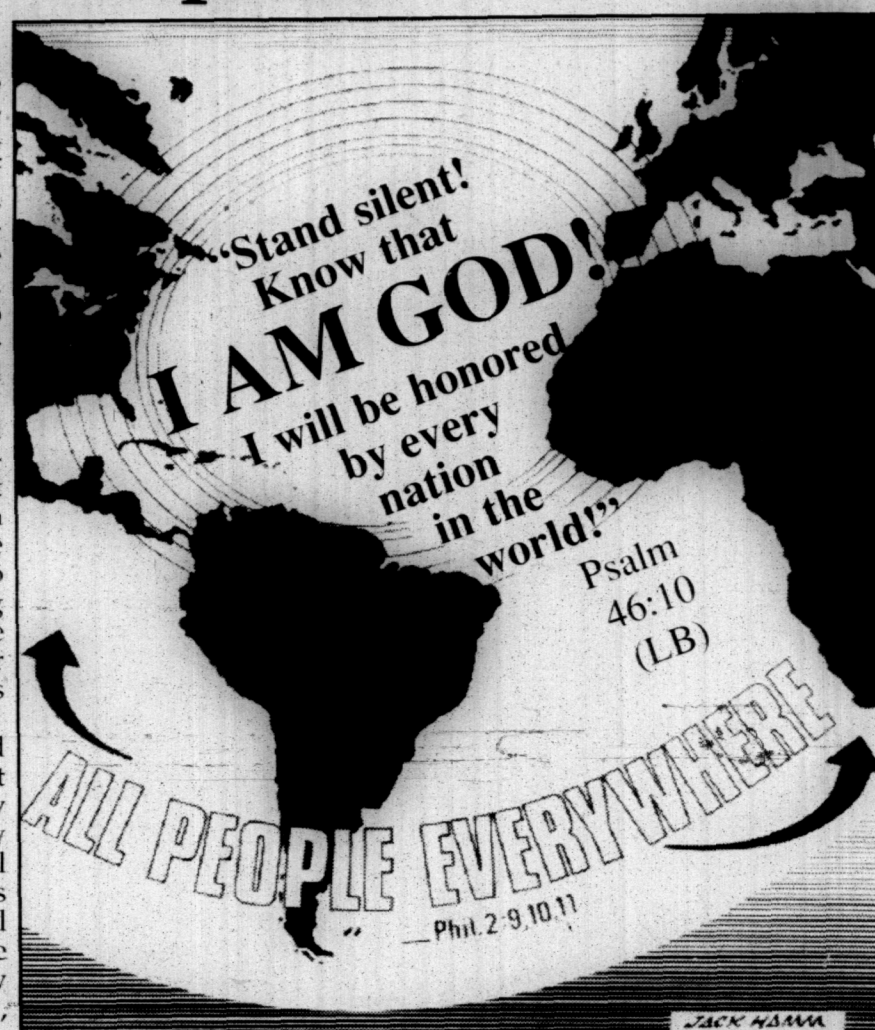
If the world knew Jesus, people would not be judged as expendable because of their religion, color, nationality, or cultural history. If the world knew Jesus, there would be no revenge for thousand-year-old wrongs.

If the world knew Jesus, political leaders could sit down and reason together as one Christian brother to another, following the instructions the Savior gave for resolving disputes among brethren.

If only the world knew Jesus..., but how will they know, unless they are told? How will they be told, unless we go? How will we go, unless the Lord leads? How will the Lord lead, unless we are willing to follow?

The tragedy of Kosovo is another graphic reminder of why we should be about the important business of bringing Mississippi and the world to Jesus — and do we need any further reminders that the hour is late and the harvest is great?

Another Easter weekend news clip from another border crossing related the story of the Kosovar man who put his life on the line to stay behind and videotape what he said was the Serbian plunder of his village and the massacre of all the men of the village.



Facing certain death if captured with the tape, he walked for two days without food or water to smuggle the tape through the border crossing.

Asked by a reporter why he would take such great risk, the man replied, "So I can show my grandson, and he can show his grandson, what the Serbs did to us here."

The tragic cycle begins anew, in generations yet unborn. Dear God, please send the greatest outpouring of your Son since his death and resurrection, please hurry, and please let it begin in us. Until we know him, we will not know peace.

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:



### Faith to ask the question

By Carl M. White, Associate Editor

**I**n her new book, *For the Time Being*, Annie Dillard describes a medical text book, Smith's Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformation, fourth edition, by Kenneth Lyons Jones, a professor of pediatrics at U. of Cal., San Diego.

She does not recommend it for casual reading. With vivid photographs, it depicts the many variations in the human order — such as, the bird-headed dwarf.

Pictured are a brother and sister, six and three years of age respectively, who have displaced hips, only eleven pairs of ribs, bent legs, and if they live to adulthood, will be no more than about three feet high. At ages six and three, their mother could easily carry them around in a bread basket.

They are pleasant and friendly but, the manual says, easily distracted because of mild retardation. They are pictured wide-eyed and naked. They can give and receive love, which surely they do. They have souls.

There is no known reason for this genetic disorder, or for many others. A chromosome crosses or DNA transmutes spontaneously, and a Hurler syndrome child is born.

These babies look normal,

but the text says they have an average IQ of 30. They are described as placid, lovable. Then the cold words: "death usually occurs in childhood."

The Jewish Talmud has a specific blessing to be said at the birth of a deformed child. All Talmud blessings begin, *Blessed art thou, O Lord, our God, King of the Universe...*

Then the blessing adds the words... *who changes the creatures.*

One of the truly fascinating aspects of Judaism is a willingness to confront life as it is. The forming of a new life in that secret place behind a mother's heart is a mysterious partnership between a man, a woman, and God.

Yet, the old Rabbis were not afraid to look life's unexpected

twists in the face and say it is not the man, nor the woman, but God who "changes the creatures."

Of course, this leaves hanging out in the wind like a neighbor's dirty laundry a perplexing question — if God changes things, why doesn't he change this child?

In truth, nobody knows. Every attempt I have heard to explain the presence of tragedy and evil in the world feels as bad as an ill-fitting pair of shoes. Ultimately, life is a mystery. That means some things will not be explained, at least not on this side of the veil.

This is what the ancient Rabbis knew that in this modern day we have forgotten. It is only those with faith that there is an

answer who dare to even ask the question. Someday God is going to make all things visible.

In the meantime, affirming the goodness of God in the presence of the unexplainable is an act of pure faith.

It means, as is the thesis of Dillard's book, for the time being we must live with deformed children and other expressions of suffering that seem unfair and undeserved.

We must endure and find appropriate responses to the tragedies of life, like the one being played out on the stage of the Balkan state of Kosovo.

For me, this is the heart of the message of the first part of Easter. Jesus went to the cross because there is something unexplainably wrong with life. Its consequences are extreme, thus its solution is equally extreme.

The cross is God saying he doesn't take sin or its consequences lightly. He confronts it head on.

The second part of Easter, the resurrection, is God's way of saying things will be changed. In the meantime, have faith.

*Blessed art thou, O Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who changes the creatures.*

# First Bible distribution project a success

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

On the weekend of March 26th, people in Long Beach found bags hanging on their doors containing Scripture, a witnessing tract, a Christian family magazine, and an invitation to worship at a local Mississippi Baptist church.

First Church, Long Beach, is setting the example for Mississippi Baptists during Celebrate Jesus 2000, according to S. A. "Sonny" Adkins, evangelism director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"We praise God for what First Church, Long Beach, is doing. They are like a guide, an encourager, to other Mississippi Baptist churches to buy into the scripture distribution project," Adkins said.

Bible distribution is one of the emphases of Celebrate Jesus 2000 (CJ2000), an intensive nationwide strategy to intentionally pray for, and share Christ with, every unsaved person in America by the end of the year 2000, according to Adkins.

"We are encouraging churches to do this (scripture distribution) in September or October of this year in conjunction with the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions emphasis," Adkins said. "However, we want churches to do this any time they feel led to," he added.

CJ2000 New Testaments are available now, according to Adkins. "Material and order blanks are being mailed to every director of missions (DOM) in the state the week after Easter. Churches can give an order for Bibles to their DOM. We need 10 days to two weeks after we receive the order for them to be drop-shipped from Nashville," Adkins said.

Scriptures are provided free of charge by MBCB to churches willing to plan a Scripture distribution in their community. However, Adkins indicated that churches who choose to do so can pay the 65 cents per Bible replacement cost.

The Scripture distribution at First Church, Long Beach, did not originate as a pilot project for the state.

"It is part of our 90th anniversary celebration," said LaRue Stephens, pastor of First Church, Long Beach.

"Our 90th anniversary committee said they didn't want to just focus on the past," Stephens indicated. "We've had 90 great years, but we think the next 90 will be even better."

Under the campaign theme, "To Long Beach with Love," the church placed a bag with a CJ2000 New Testament, a CJ2000 tract, a Home Life or Focus on the Family magazine, a brochure on the church, and an invitation to a new early worship service starting May 2nd, Stephens said.

"There are 5200 dwellings in Long Beach. We ordered 5200 Bibles and material," Stephens said.

"We divided the city by voting precinct," said David Bethea, Sunday School director. "Individuals and groups in the church then took different streets in each precinct."

Bethea said all but 18 of the 140 different routes were taken. The deacons are planning to cover the untaken routes, according to Jeff Andrews, deacon chairman.

Brenda Davis, minister of education, said the scripture distribution project was planned by the church evangelism committee.

"On Wednesday evening we had over 100 people, mostly senior adults, stuffing bags in preparation for today," Davis said.

This is the second city-wide canvas by the church in the past two years, Davis noted. The first was prior to a revival led by evangelist Junior

this project," Davis said. "They have been chomping at the bit."

The first through fifth grade Sunday School department took seven streets and will do their distribution on Sunday afternoon, she said.



There was one family with four children who took an entire subdivision, Davis said.

Davis anticipated that the entire project will be completed in a week, and will have involved over 300 people.

"We need other churches across the state to distribute house to house the Word of God," Adkins said. "And here's the reason why — Rom. 10:17, 'So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.'"

For more information about this or other CJ2000 projects and resources, contact your DOM, or Adkins at the MBCB Evangelism Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

**DISTRIBUTING SCRIPTURE** — Billy Skelly, an alderman for the City of Long Beach and a deacon at First Church, Long Beach, hangs a distribution bag at a Long Beach home as part of the church's city-wide Scripture distribution project. (Photo by Carl M. White)



**MAKING PLANS** — Looking over plans for their Scripture distribution project evangelist Junior at First Church, Long Beach, are (from left) Brenda Davis, minister of education; Hill. Pete Meese, chairman of the evangelism committee; Jeff Andrews, deacon chairman; and church members Al Landner and Walt Gautier. (Photo by Carl M. White)

**THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

**THE BAPTIST  
Record**

## Miss. CP gets March boost

Mississippi Baptists gave \$2,327,478 through the Cooperative Program in March, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds.

The March amount is \$408,854 more than that received in March 1998.

Total giving for 1999 is \$7,207,185. This amount is \$885,349, or 14%, more than that given during the same period of 1998.

Giving thus far in 1999 is \$555,213, or 8.35%, more than the pro rata budget of \$6,651,973.

The pro rata budget is figured by taking the total 1999 Cooperative Program budget of \$26,607,890, dividing by 12 months, and multiplying by the number of months elapsed.

The Cooperative Program helps fund such projects as the April Bible Drills, which teach Baptist young people to know and cherish the Bible; the Miss. Woman's Missionary Union-sponsored Father/Daughter Overnight, April 23-24, at Camp Garaywa in Clinton; and the "Keeping Your Church Out of Court" conferences on April 22 and 23 in Gulfport and Brookhaven, respectively.

## SBC CP shows increases

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for March were up more than 2.5% and the fiscal year's total nearly 5% compared to last year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

For March 1999, CP receipts totaled \$13,056,386 compared to March 1998 of \$12,731,017, an increase of \$325,368 or 2.56%. For the SBC fiscal year, after six months, CP gifts totaled \$83,257,241 compared to the previous year's total of \$79,337,984, an increase of \$3,919,257 or 4.94%.

Designated gifts for the month of March were \$21,766,337 compared to the same month in 1998 of \$17,986,917, an increase of \$3,779,420 or 21.01%. For the year to date, designated gifts total \$94,791,111 compared to the previous year of \$95,286,159, a decrease of \$495,048 or .52%.

The SBC Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions, and fellowships for distribution according to the 1998-99 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget approved by messengers to the 1998 SBC annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

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# New WMU staff holds F.O.C.U.S. meetings

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor



Cassibry



Anderson



Burns



Keels



Sills

"We want to hear from you," Kay Cassibry, Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) executive director since Sept. 1998, told a group of around 35 WMU leaders and pastors at Pearl River Association at the sixth F.O.C.U.S. meeting.

F.O.C.U.S. stands for Friends, Opportunities, Centering on Christ, Understanding, and Sharing. With almost an entirely new staff joining the state WMU since January, these meetings were set up across the state to introduce the staff and to facilitate discussions about the future direction of WMU in Mississippi, according to Cassibry.

Eight more F.O.C.U.S. meetings are planned in the state (see the box on this page for schedule).

"About a year ago I was the executive director in Louisiana," Cassibry said. "I had things up and going when this call came from the (Miss.) search committee chairman wanting to know if I would submit a resume."

"God and I argued about it. I called all my prayer warriors, and God won. I am here to stay, as long as God will leave me here," she said.

Tammy Anderson, from Mobile, Ala., has been on the Miss. WMU staff since Nov. 1997.

"Last year, I was Acteens consultant. This year I have been given the assignment of working with college students, co-ed missions, and special projects," Anderson said.

One of the special projects on Anderson's agenda includes the WMU/Habitat for Humanity project to build two homes in

Jackson the week of July 11. In conjunction with the building project, WMU is planning a variety of ministry projects in the community, including nightly revival services and 17 Bible clubs.

Robin Keels, a native of South Carolina, comes to Mississippi by way of Illinois. She serves as GA/Acteen/Camp consultant.

"God called me into missions as an Acteen," Keels said. She later served as a camp worker, then as a camp director. Keels said she is looking forward to her first year at Camp Garaywa.

Debbie Sills is Missions Friends and Communications

consultant. A Georgia native, Sills felt called to foreign missions at a young age. After finishing Southwestern Seminary where she met her husband, a Mississippi native, she moved to Jackson where she worked as advertising coordinator for The Baptist Record.

"I was content with my position and my abilities. I didn't want to be moved out of my comfort zone, but God had something else in mind," Sills said.

Kathy Burns comes to Miss. after working in the National WMU office since 1992. She is Women on Missions and Women's Ministry consultant.

"We really are a team," Burns said. "When I look at you and at what the Lord is doing in Miss., it is apparent that there is a fresh wind blowing across the state. I am excited to be apart of what God is doing."

At each F.O.C.U.S. meeting participants are asked to respond to five questions:

1. What are your thoughts and feelings about WMU? Possibilities, priorities, audiences, future?

2. What must our purpose/focus be in order to be viable for the next five years?

3. What are some of the things through the years that have worked and have not worked? What changes and/or

improvements would you suggest?

4. List training ideas/events/mission projects that will equip you to meet the needs of people in your area. What resources can we (your state WMU) provide to help you accomplish your ideas?

5. What will it take for you to become a more effective Great Commission-driven Christian?

For information about WMU F.O.C.U.S. meetings, or WMU in general, contact the state WMU office at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3324, or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## Meet the State WMU Staff

APRIL 12

Calhoun Association, Calhoun, 10 a.m.  
First, Louisville, 7 p.m.

APRIL 19

Central, Meridian, 10 a.m.  
First, Newton, 7 p.m.

APRIL 22

First, Indianola, 10 a.m.  
Carrollton, Carrollton, 7 p.m.

MAY 3

Calvary, Yazoo City, 10 a.m.  
First, Jackson, 7 p.m.

## Dobbs retires, heads for missions and outdoors

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Gene Dobbs officially became the "former" executive assistant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) when he retired March 31, but he doesn't intend to go home and rest on his laurels.

As a matter of fact, he doesn't know exactly where home is going to be. There's the house in Clinton. There's the 250-acre farm near Ackerman. There's the pull that he and wife Betty feel to Philadelphia, where he pastored at First Church for

almost 15 years before coming to MBCB on Jan. 1, 1991.

"I hope and trust the Lord will open up opportunities of service. I plan to accept interim pastorates when I'm called, and we are also considering short-term international missions opportunities," he said.

Both Gene and Betty are avid ham radio operators — and even more avid hunters. The pair own matching all-terrain vehicles, and friends often tease them about which one bags the most big game each year.

"We're not going to give up hunting. We enjoy the outdoors, and hunting is an addendum to that enjoyment," he said.

Dobbs said they also intend to keep active their amateur radio licenses, so they can continue to be involved in providing communications services for the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit.

Dobbs was in his second year as MBCB president when former MBCB executive director Bill Causey asked him to become second-in-command at the board.

"I have known Gene extremely well since we attended Mississippi College," Causey said. "I felt a pastor was needed in the position, and Mississippi Baptists had already placed him in leadership positions."

Dobbs had previously served as MBCB executive

committee chairman, and was in his second MBCB term when Causey called.

"Gene's calmness, steadiness, and ability to work with people served him well. He never disappointed me; he was outstanding in every regard. I have considered him a counselor and a friend. He's a fine person," Causey said.

MBCB executive director Jim Futral commended Dobbs for his years of service to Mississippi Baptists.

"We have all known people who made a lot of noise but had little substance. Gene Dobbs is a substantive person who served quietly. When it comes to genuine servant leadership, he ranks at the top of his class," Futral said.

In a wide-ranging interview conducted during his last week in office, Dobbs reminisced about his time at MBCB and looked to the future of Baptist work in Mississippi.

"There is no way you can fully understand the vastness and complexity of the board until you're involved in it," he said.

Dobbs refuses to take credit for all the good things that happened at MBCB during his time there, but he does describe some high points when pressed to do so:

◆ Solid financial status of the board. "Because Mississippi Baptist churches have been so

faithful in their giving, we have been able to get more money into Christian education and missions. The board (members) have also permitted sound financial practices to be put into effect," he said.

◆ Covenant of Cooperation, in which the agencies and institutions allied with the Mississippi Baptist Convention agreed to maintain close ties to the state body by sharing appointment of trustees and engaging in other steps to build trust.

◆ MBCB restructuring that provided an overlay between interdepartmental team management of MBCB projects and the operations of individual departments.

◆ The more than 10,000 Mississippi Baptist volunteers who are annually involved in partnership missions projects.

Dobbs hopes MBCB will stay on the move in the future.

"We must offer the best available training and resources. That is becoming especially important with the influx of new people coming into Mississippi, speaking different languages and having different needs."

"We must make sure we stay on the cutting edge of information and delivery systems to meet the needs of these people. Change will be coming even more rapidly in the future, and we have to be ready," he said.



Dobbs

# Fishers of Men Trail tourney begins season

By Tim Nicholas  
MBCB Communications director

It's a 70-degree, spring-like day on the calm waters of a 250-acre bass lake. You put your boat in at dawn, the mists rising from the water as if to birth new clouds.

Within an hour the morning sun burns off the last bit of existing cloud cover to reveal clear blue sky above. It's only March 5, but you're going to need sun block to prevent sunburn.

You move your boat toward a cove and see a doe awaken from her bed by the lake and stroll into the nearby woods. You put a skirted tube jig on your 10-lb test line and make your first cast.

As you reel in, there's a strike. Soon your partner places a net under the three-lb. bass that will go toward the best five catches for the day.

Conversation with your partner drifts toward eternal things, like his relationship with Jesus Christ.

The night before, you and about 25 other bass fishermen attended a banquet where the first speaker, in a devotional message, made the analogy, "You are the bass. Sin is the bait."

Those words by Bart Walker, pastor of Parkway Church, Natchez, helped kick off the first ever Fishers of Men Trail Bass Tournament in Mississippi. Fishers of Men is a national Christian organization which encourages the Christian walk and promotes witnessing among the participants.

Parkway Church played host to a pre-tournament supper and rally on March 5, the evening before 14 bass boats were to put into the waters of Natchez State Park Lake on Saturday.

The fishermen were joined on Friday evening by nearly 100 men of the church who were putting on their annual wild game dinner.

Ordinarily, the pre-tournament meeting and meal for the Mississippi Division is sponsored by the Men's Ministries and Evangelism Departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The tournament was the first of five in Mississippi on the Fishers of Men Trail.

Other tourneys include: April 17 at Ross Barnett Reservoir near Jackson; May 15 at Sardis Lake near Sardis; June 12 at Columbus; and the state championship tourney July 10 at Lake Ferguson near Greenville.

Tournament director Jim Phillips knows the value of a Christian-oriented tournament. Phillips, a professional bass fisherman for two years, is also pastor of North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

In December 1995, Phillips was able to lead a Bible study which included professional fishermen he'd been seeing on television for years.

Phillips said that a professional fisherman can be on the road for 35 weeks a year. Many have young families back home. They are lonely, driving straight from one tourney to the next. They need encouragement and the Word of God.

When Phillips answered a call from God to preach, he had been a tournament fisherman for several years. He left the management of a Jackson sporting goods store and went back to school at Mississippi College in Clinton.

Before he got to New Orleans Seminary, he had sold all his fishing equipment, believing that was what God wanted.

Later, "it felt as if God had given me permission to start fishing again," said Phillips, who won as an amateur the BASS Masters (Bass Anglers Sportsman's Society) 1997 tourney at Lake Neely Henry in Gadsden, Ala.

For that he received a fully-rigged Ranger bass boat and trailer. That year he was

approached by people who wanted to help him become a pro.

"So, with the full knowledge of my church, deacons, and personnel committee, I became a professional fisherman," said Phillips.

At each tourney, Phillips said he has the opportunity to share the gospel.

Although the Fishers of Men Trail tourney was open to anyone, all the winners were Baptists.

Lee Wall and Tommy Smith, both members of North Greenwood Church, Greenwood, won first place at Natchez with a five-fish aggregate weight of 15.56 lbs.

Second place team was Kenny Price of Lumberton, member of Improve Church, Improve; and Kelly Norris of Hattiesburg, a member of Mt. Horeb Church, Hattiesburg, with a weight of 15.29 lbs.

Bringing in the lunker (biggest) fish was Mike Rice of Vidalia, La., a member of Parkway Church, Natchez. His bass weighed in at 7.69 lbs. All fish are released back into the lake alive.

For information on other tournaments in the Fishers of Men Trail, contact Phillips at 615 Grand Blvd., Greenwood, MS 38930, Telephone: (601) 453-7818. E-mail: Fishingpreacher@Hotmail.com.



Phillips

## James Fancher, age 70, dies

James Parkes Fancher died April 3 at his home in Florence.

Fancher was born on July 29, 1928 in Weir and grew up in Louisville. Funeral services were held April 7 at his home church, First Church, Florence, with graveside services in Louisville.

A graduate of Mississippi College, Fancher attended New Orleans Seminary and transferred to Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., to complete his seminary degree.

Churches pastored by Fancher were Mt. Carmel, Edinburg; Evergreen, Louisville; New Hope, Foxworth; Portola Church, Portola, Calif.; Harpersville, Harpersville; Bay Springs, Bay Springs; First, Florence; and First, Aberdeen. He was also employed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to serve as associate in the Evangelism Department.

Survivors include his wife Ewilda Trenor Fancher; sons, Bob of New York City, Frank of Madison, and James of Bethany, Okla.; and five grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Camp Garaywa Building Fund for Patterson Place, a new adult lodge owned and operated by Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Mississippi Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3316, or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Fancher

### COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

April 18 is Cooperative Program Day across our Convention. It is a good opportunity to think about this ingenious method of funding that has enabled Baptists to join together to strengthen and lengthen the Kingdom of God.

The Cooperative Program is one year shy of being 75 years old. Although it has been around for three-quarters of a century some younger people — and even some almost as old as the Cooperative Program itself — do not know what it is or what it does.

At times we talk about it as though it is only money, but to view it in that way would be like evaluating a college education as only expenses; or to analyze having a baby only in terms of cost factors; or to look closely at an arrangement of beautiful, long-stemmed red roses and see them only in terms of dollar outlay.

No, the Cooperative Program is much, much more than that. It is a program, and it is a program of cooperation, but ultimately it is a program of cooperating to reach the world for Christ.

Three phrases help describe this great endeavor:

♦ *It is through, not to.* Most Mississippi Baptist churches on a monthly basis send a check



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

that goes through the Cooperative Program.

It may be a set amount or a percentage of the dollars given in the local church, and the funds begin their journey through this glorious program to touch lives in every corner of the world.

In only a few weeks, parts of that check will be involved in evangelism, Christian education, childcare, and church development.

Part of that check will be on its way into every state beyond our Mississippi borders, to mega cities and rural hamlets, to places you read about every day, and to other places we may not be able to pronounce.

Part of that check, through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, will be destined for the countries of the world where languages may be strange, customs may be odd, and conditions may be difficult, but where Jesus is desperately needed.

It is true that you give "through" the Cooperative Program, not "to."

♦ *Both/and.* One of the blessed and creative aspects of the Cooperative Program is that it enables us to be faithful to our Lord's commission that we be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the world.

We all have the tendency to want to have our own personal endeavor or our own private mission interest. It may be a country, or it may be a special ministry. We tend to want to give all of our attention to that one particular thing that emotionally grabs us.

That can be good, but it also can be to the grave neglect of other needs and ministries.

The Cooperative Program is not designed, nor does anyone desire, for you to simply ignore your local church, or care for your pastor and staff, or fund some of the needed programs that will result in

changed lives in your own community.

However, Jesus instructed us to have a balanced mission that will include "both/and."

♦ *Selflessness for the sake of the whole.* At the death of a much decorated veteran, the observation was made that could be applied to thousands: he was willing to forego his needs and personal desires for the sake of the whole.

In many ways sharing our resources through the Cooperative Program is a constant reminder, as well as an ongoing participation, in the fact that we are not just here for "me" — my needs, my will, my interests, my selfishness.

Giving to the Cooperative Program shows we are willing to forego some of those things that we could put at the forefront, in order to put the needs of others in that place.

Why would any person sitting in a pew in a Baptist church on a Sunday be willing to give his or her money, channeling it to countries they may never visit, to people they may never see, to share the Gospel in a language they may never understand?

The answer, I believe is twofold. First, Jesus' love in our hearts compels us. Second, when you think about it long and hard, you realize that somebody did that for you!



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

### FAREWELL, FRIEND

Editor:

Recently I learned of the death of a dear friend — a woman whose life epitomized the word "faithful."

Mrs. Lillian Lowe, an active, loyal member of First Church, Houston, sincerely believed it was imperative for boys and girls, men and women to be concerned about missions. So she made sure that they were!

For many years I delighted in working with and observing Mrs. Lowe. I could count on seeing her at state and associational WMU functions. She enjoyed being part of Woman's Missionary Union because her heart constantly beat for mission causes.

About two years ago, I was privileged to participate in a "Lillian Lowe Day" in her home church at Houston. As several people spoke, I could not hold back tears of admiration and appreciation of this "ordinary" little woman who had influenced so many people toward the Lord and his work.

I thank God for Lillian Lowe and other women like her in Mississippi — women whose lives have given testimony of their sincere desire to spread the message of God's love to every person in the world.

See you later in heaven, dear friend, and we'll continue our discussion!

Marjean Patterson  
Clinton

### PASTOR NEEDED

Editor:

The North Sea Baptist Church is in need of a pastor. We are an English language congregation of approximately 75 families from 20 countries.

The congregation is composed of approximately equal parts English speaking permanent residents, NATO military personnel, and oil industry personnel. The church is located in Stavanger, Norway, which is on the west coast of southern Norway.

Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English Language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message.

If God is leading you to pastor in an international setting, please write

William P. Dixon, chairman  
Pastor Search Committee  
Liljeveien 11  
4022 Stavanger  
Norway  
e-mail:wpdixon@netpower.no

### WELL SAID

Editor:

Greetings in Jesus' mighty name! Your editorial in the Feb. 18 issue of The Baptist Record was superb! It sure needed to be said and you said it so well.

For far too long we have kept Jesus inside the four walls of our church buildings. He is not even welcome in some. Faith needs to be demonstrated even in a sometimes hostile world.

When I think of the pure joy and satisfaction I feel when I am

privileged to help someone get to Jesus, it reminds me of why I exist and that many Christians do not know the joy of this experience. What a shame.

We give toward the purchase of a new carpet for the church parlor, yet millions of Christians around the world don't have a shred of God's Word.

I have pastored four SBC churches. We preachers need to re-examine our priorities and what it is we are preaching.

We like to blame the laity, but God is expecting preachers to

provide the right kind leadership that gets out from behind the pulpit, not to another meeting, but into the real world where the hurting and dying are found.

WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) may seem like kids' stuff. What would he do? Well, we know what he would do and it's time we were about the Master's business.

God bless you and may you continue to dream dreams.

Sid Taylor  
Prison Evang. Outreach, Inc.  
Pawleys Island, S. C.

## Mississippi College announces staffers

Mississippi College (MC) President Howell Todd recently announced the appointment of two senior university administrators.

Steven Stanford, dean of student development and enrollment management at Delta State University, will succeed Van Quick as vice president for student affairs.

Quick is retiring this year after 39 years of service at MC.

Sid Moller, interim dean of the MC School of Law and professor of law, has been named dean of the law school succeeding Richard Hurt who resigned last year to take a senior post with the American Bar Association.

Stanford, a native of Yazoo City, is a graduate of Clinton High School and Delta State University, and earned the Ph.D. from Florida State University.

He has served in numerous roles at Delta State in the Division of Student Affairs since 1991, and he had a variety of assignments in student affairs at Florida State during his doctoral studies.

Moller has been a member of the law school faculty since 1989, and he served for three years in the capacity of associate dean at the law school from 1993-96.

He is a graduate of Louisiana State University and earned his

Juris Doctorate from the University of Wyoming School of Law. He also has a master's degree in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University. Prior to going to MC, he was




Moller

a member of the law school faculty at the University of Wyoming. He practiced law in Laramie, Wyo., and Denver, Colo., prior to beginning his career in legal education.



Hurt

## You Are Invited



to visit Baptist College of Health Sciences and find out more about careers in:

- Nursing
- Respiratory Care
- Radiological Sciences

**Attend our Open House**

Saturday, April 17  
10 a.m.  
Refreshments will be served

**BAPTIST**  
College of Health Sciences

1003 Monroe • Memphis, Tennessee

Please R.S.V.P. to  
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(800) 796-7171

To learn more, visit our web site at  
<http://www.bmhcc.org>

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Baptist College of Health Sciences accepts students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.



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ALL SIZES  
SALES AND RENTALS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

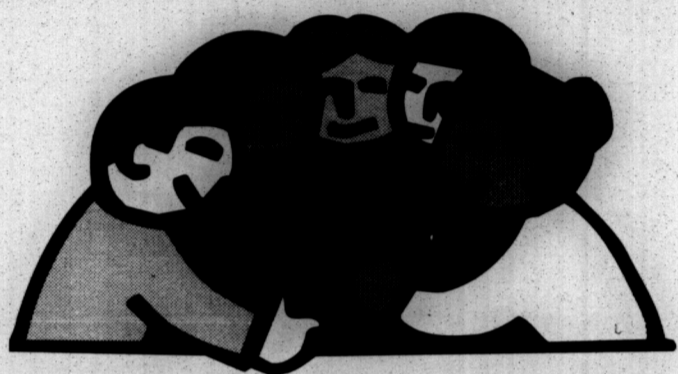
# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 8, 1999

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication**.

## EXCEL: MISSION TRIP TRAINING FOR YOUTH AND LEADERS



*This training is intended to train, motivate, challenge and help all youth and their leaders going on a mission trip this summer make the most of their missions opportunity.*

**April 30 - May 1, Camp Garaywa**

5:30 p.m. Friday through Saturday 3:00 p.m.

**Cost: \$26 each**

(includes lodging, meals and program)

For more information and to register, contact:

Tammy Anderson, WMU, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205  
601-968-3800 or 800-748-1651

## 1999 LEGAL ISSUES AREA MEETINGS

### "keeping your church OUT of court"



**APRIL 22 - GULF COAST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
OFFICE, GULFPORT**

**APRIL 23 - CENTRAL BC, BROOKHAVEN**

**PURPOSE:** To provide information on how churches can carefully conduct their affairs under county, state and national laws and do so in a manner that provides some legal insulation from lawsuits.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** church business administrators, church staff, personnel committee members, finance committee members, church trustees, legal professionals dealing with issues concerning liabilities of churches and non-profit organizations.

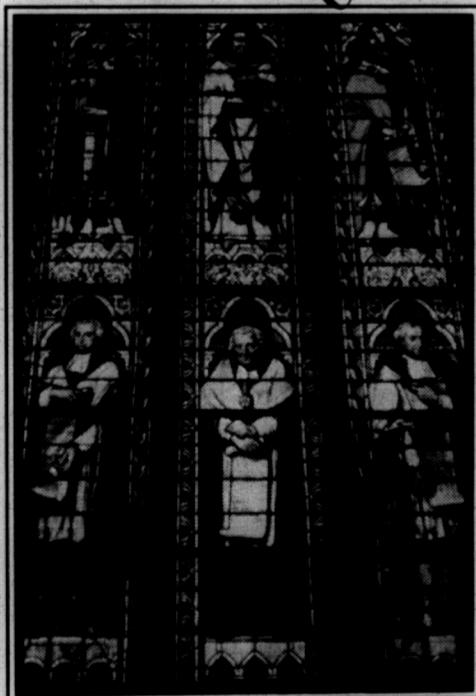
**REGISTRATION FEE:** \$10 per conferee (includes lunch). The 154-page notebook "Keeping Your Church Out of Court" will be available for \$25.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:** William R. Korb, Jr., Sheila L. Korb, Michael V. Bourland, all attorneys with Bourland, Smith, Wall & Wenzel law firm in Fort Worth, Texas, and general counsel to Tarrant Baptist Association, Inc., and trust and estate counsel to Baylor University; William Townsend, assistant dean of the Mississippi College School of Law.

For more information, contact Matt Buckles, 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

## Preaching and Worship Conference

**May 10-11, 1999  
Temple Baptist Church  
Hattiesburg  
"Preach the Word"**



**Brian Harbour**  
Richardson, Tex.  
Pastor, FBC, Richardson  
Author, Adjunct Professor  
Convention Bible Speaker/Teacher

**Jerry Songer**

Newnan, Ga.  
Former Pastor, FBC, Roswell, Ga.  
Former Pastor, Central Hills BC  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
Conference/Seminar Leader



**Paul Koonce**  
Minister of Music, Temple Baptist Church

**Dean Register**  
Pastor, Temple Baptist Church  
President, Mississippi Baptist Convention



- **Hardy Denham**, Retired Director, Church Minister Relations, WCC
- **Joe Campbell**, Baptist Pastor/Minister, Wiggins, Miss.

**Registration Form**  
**Preaching and Worship Conference**  
**Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg • May 10-11, 1999**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Please pre-register by May 3, 1999, so that adequate materials can be provided.

# MAKING MUSIC FOR THE MASTER

Two great music camps for children  
who have finished grades 4-6 by June.



## GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY JUNE 29 - JULY 3

*Conference Clinician: Don Odom*  
Associate professor of voice  
Florida Baptist Theological College  
Graceville, Fla.  
Accommodates 500  
Cost \$128.50 each



## BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE JULY 26 - JULY 30

*Conference Clinician: Kay Payton*  
Texas state music specialist  
First Baptist Church  
Round Rock, Tex.  
Accommodates 135  
Cost \$100.00 each

- Both camps feature*
- ♪ Worship Services
  - ♪ Music Classes
  - ♪ Crafts
  - ♪ Water Games
  - ♪ Concert on Final Evening
  - ♪ Spiritual Emphasis Classes
  - ♪ Swimming
  - ♪ Ping-Pong Tournaments
  - ♪ Many Other Fun Activities

Sponsored by the Church Music Department, MBCB  
Call 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651 for more information

## Garaywa Summer GA Camp Counselor Recruitment Interviews

(Camp dates May 25 - July 23)

Robin Keels  
WMU

Tuesday, April 13

University of Mississippi	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Blue Mountain College	1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
NE Mississippi Community College	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

## STATE SENIOR ADULT RETREATS, "JOYFUL JOURNEY OF SENIORS"

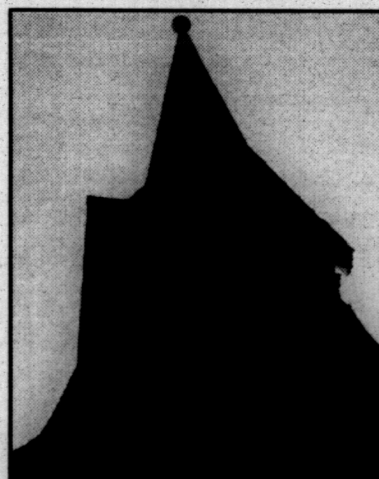
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly (228-452-7261) (May use VISA Card, Starting March 1, 1999)

Registration 1:30 p.m.	May 17-19	May 20-22	May 24-28
	<b>\$83</b>	<b>\$83</b>	<b>\$150</b>
Preacher	J. Garland McKee Clinton	Clifton Perkins Clinton	J. Ferris Jordan Baton Rouge
Choir	First Baptist Church Jackson	First Baptist Church Laurel	North Oxford BC Oxford
Music	Dennis Daniels Jackson	Jimmy Little Laurel	Allen Harris Oxford
Organist	Pauline Moore Kosciusko	Ed Sudduth McComb	Dot Pray MBCB
Pianist	June McKee Clinton	Irene Martin Harperville	Irene Martin Harperville
Morning Watch	Gordon Sansing, Sr. Meridian	Joe Stovall, Jr. Raymond	Marjean Patterson Clinton
<b>Conference</b>	<b>May 17-19</b>	<b>May 20-22</b>	<b>May 24-28</b>
Grandparenting Is Not Like It Use To Be	Talmadge Smith Brookhaven	Ronney Joe Webb Laurel	Charles Stubblefield Ecru
Making Retirement Special	W. Levon Moore Kosciusko	Fred Tarpley, Sr. Madison	Horace Kerr Brandon
Heaven, Your Real Home	Jim Yates Yazoo City	Kermit McGregor Mendenhall	Barry Worrell Grenada
Prayer Life	Jan Cossitt Clinton	Clyde Little Bay Springs	Jan Halford Jackson
Grief/Suffering	Dennis Daniels Jackson	Farley Earnest Brandon	Frank Bishop Seminary
Joyful Heart	M.C. Johnson Clarksdale	Mickey Bounds Vicksburg	Arlis Nichols Enterprise
Crafts	James & Mattie Ray Ripley	James & Mattie Ray Ripley	James & Mattie Ray Ripley
HIS-tory in Hymns	Irene Martin Harperville	Bob Hatzfeld Greenwood	Buddy McElroy Meridian
Second Half of Marriage	Farrell & Joann Blankenship MBCB	Mose & Kathleen Dangerfield Clinton	James & Cissa Richardson Madison
Leadership	Dennis Daniels Jackson (Wednesday)	Farley Earnest Brandon (Saturday)	Dallas Roscoe Tennessee
<b>Departure</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>

### Workshops for May 24-28

**Wednesday:** Women's Ministry - Cissa Richardson, Madison, Men's Ministry - Paul Harrell, MBCB

**Thursday:** Genealogy, Grandparent Brag Bag, Crafts, Health Issues, Retirement/Estate Management, etc.  
Ice Cream Fellowships, Seafood Banquets, Gifts, Fun!



## 1999 Growing Churches Conferences

### Equipping Church Leaders for the 21st Century

Growing Churches Through Discipleship - July 29-31

**Seminars on Total Church Growth with an  
emphasis on Discipleship and Family Ministry**

Growing Churches Through Bible Study - August 6-7

**Seminars on Total Church Growth with an  
emphasis on Sunday School**

Register by calling  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly  
at 228-452-7261

Plan to be successful this year by equipping your church leaders.

## "Becoming A Friend and Lover Conference"



### With Dick Purnell

President of Single Life Resources

Saturday, April 24

Registration 8:00 a.m.

Conference 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25 (includes box lunch) before April 11  
\$30 (includes box lunch) before April 18  
\$35 walk in (lunch on your own)

Main Street Baptist Church  
1101 North Main Street, Hattiesburg  
Call Steve Bublit, 601-544-5444

## 1999

## Family Week at Gulfshore



### "Developing the Family Foundation" July 5-9

Monday, July 5, 1:30 p.m.-Registration

Friday, July 9, 10:00 a.m.-Dismiss

### Conferences

*Couples and Men/Women*  
Scotty and Judy Shows  
Bellevue, Memphis

*Living God's Word*  
Frank Gunn  
Biloxi

*Single Parenting*

*Mini-Centrifuge*  
Youth

*TeamKID*  
Preschool & Children

*Music, magic, puppet and humor*  
Jim Chester  
Slidell, La.

- Perspectives
- Bar-B-Que Cook-Out
- One Free Day
- Night Swimming
- Ice-cream /  
Watermelon Fellowship



*Special Guests*  
The "Naturals"  
Mississippi College

#### Registration for Family Retreat

Name of Adults \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Children's names/birthdays \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street  
Pass Christian, MS 39571. (Visa Card is accepted.)  
For more information call 228-452-7261.

Deposit: \$30 per person or \$60 per family. For pastors or staff and their wives - for every three paid families, get one adult's expenses free.

#### Cost Per Person - Room/Meals/Reservation:

##### "A" Unit

Adult (12 years and up) .....\$156.40 each  
Child (2-11 years old) .....\$ 77.95 each  
Under 2 years old .....\$ 4.00 each

##### "C" Unit

Adult (18 years and up) .....\$142.40 each  
Youth (12 years - 12th grade) ....\$ 76.90 each  
Child (2 - 11 years old) .....\$ 44.45 each  
Under 2 years old .....\$ 4.00 each

## Central Hills Summer Camp Schedule



### 1999 Summer Missions Resident Camp for ROYAL AMBASSADORS AND CHALLENGERS

June 14-18  
June 21-25  
June 28-July 2  
July 26-30  
July 12-16  
July 19-23

### Lad & Dad WEEKEND CAMP

June 25-26  
July 9-10

#### SCHEDULE

Please choose a week which is free of schedule conflicts. Each camper is expected to remain at CHBR for the whole camp session.

For more information contact Central Hills  
601-289-9730

Pray this day for...

April 9- April 22, 1999

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

*Testimony About Prayer -- "I feel that prayer is the very atmosphere of your life in Christ and should be a natural practice and experience each day. For me, God, our heavenly Father, is as close to us as breathing."*  
Gloria Grogan, North American Missionary

Pray for the ministry of Bryan Bakke, Director of New Flight Arts and Director of Church in Community at Uptown Baptist Church, Chicago. Bro. Bakke has been very effective in winning many youth to Christ through art. Prayer has become one of the main emphases of the Uptown Church.

Cooperative Program Day (Stewardship Emphasis). Paul Rodriguez is a catalytic missionary in Twin Falls, Idaho. Pray about the need for more preachers so several church-type missions can be started. At this time, Paul is pastoring two churches and would like to start two more. Pray for his family, that the Lord will watch over them.

For State Bible Drills, Hernando BC, Hernando/FBC, Gulfport (Discipleship & Family Ministry). For the State Secretaries Conference, Camp Garaywa (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries).

For State Bible Drills, Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian/Petal-Harvey-BC, Petal (Discipleship & Family Ministry). For the second time in three years U.S. lawmakers failed to override President Clinton's veto of a bill banning partial-birth abortions. Pray that hearts would be made sensitive to the sanctity of human life.

For State Bible Drills, FBC, Greenwood/FBC, Brookhaven (Discipleship & Family Ministry). For Church Facilities Workshop, Parkway BC, Clinton (Church Building Services).

For State Bible Drills, FBC, Laurel (Discipleship & Family Ministry). One-Day Mission Trip, New Orleans (WMU).

Mario Betrand is a Messenger of the Word pastoring Reformed Baptist Church of Montreal, Canada. Pray for evangelism projects that are being planned for the spring. Activities will include street preaching and Bible exposition.

Pray for prayer-walking teams sponsored by Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, under the leadership of Lynda Smith. They have had a number of witnessing and ministry opportunities to people living in areas surrounding their church.

For State Bible Drills, FBC, Tupelo/FBC, Saltillo (Discipleship & Family Ministry). Tanzania is going through a major drought and this is causing the price of foods to be very expensive. Pray that God will send rains needed to produce a harvest, and that He will use this desperate situation to draw many to faith in Christ.

For Keeping Your Church Out of Court, Gulf Coast Assembly Center, Gulfport (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries).

For State Young Musicians Choral Adjudication, FBC, Clinton (Church Music). State Vacation Bible School Clinic, Colonial Hgts. BC, Jackson (Sunday School).

For State Young Musicians Choral Festival, Mississippi College (Church Music). Pray for the Mississippi Singing Churchmen as they help people experience God through their inspiring performances.

For State Bible Drills, FBC, Starkville/Calvary BC, Starkville (Discipleship & Family Ministry). For State Handbell Festival, Gulfshore Assembly (Church Music Dept.). For Witnessing Through Media, Ridgecrest BC, Madison (Director Broadcast Services). For GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa (WMU).

The vast majority of Palestinian Arabs have never heard the name of Jesus as the One raised from the dead. Their religion denies His death on the cross as well as the resurrection, so they are without hope. Pray for a new believer and his son, that they will be able to share their faith and lead their family to a personal relationship with God.

## Reconciliation Workshop

April 29

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Lebanon Baptist Association Office

500 North 38th Avenue

Hattiesburg, Miss.

### "The Bible and Race"

Through the years many people have attempted to use scriptures to promote racial superiority and to divide people according to their race or color.

What does the Bible really say?

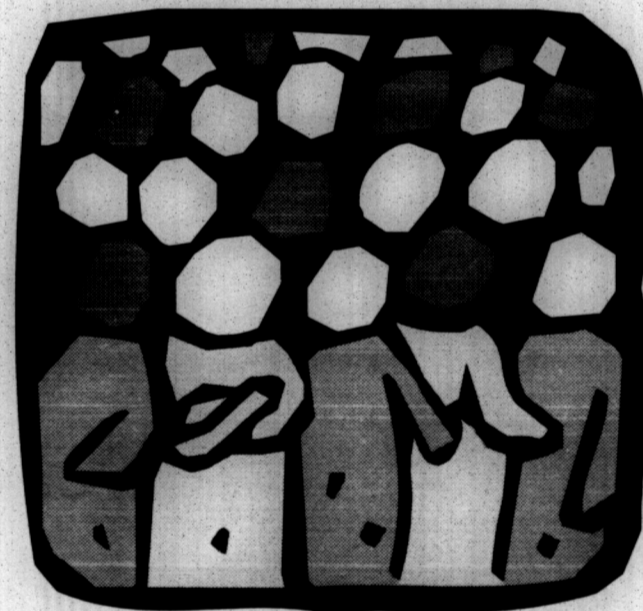


Beth Holmes



Paul Jones

Led by Paul Jones, Executive Director, Christian Action Commission, and Beth Holmes, Consultant, Christian Action Commission.



**Lunch will be provided.**

Please call the associational office for reservations by April 26.  
**601-261-2771**

A Ministry of the Cooperative Program  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Missions Extension and Associational  
Administration  
Don Q. Wilson, Director  
Richard Brogan, Consultant

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Euclatubba Church, Lee Association,** recently licensed Johnny Cox to the ministry. He has served as youth minister at the church since January 1998. Pictured (from left) are Johnny Hearn, pastor; Cox; and Paula Cox, a senior at Blue Mountain College.



Hearn and The Coxes

**Christopher Wayne Rankin** was ordained to the ministry at Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall, on Feb. 28.

Pictured (back row, from left) are Rankin; Farris W. Smith, director of missions, Simpson Association; and Scott Cockrell, former youth minister; (front row) Terry Runnels, pastor, Grace Church, Mendenhall; and Jerry Doggett, pastor of Poplar Springs Church.



Rankin, Smith, Cockrell, Runnel, and Doggett

**Robert H. Rogers** has been called to pastor the Baptist Village Congregation near Petah Tiqva, Israel. The church is an international, English speaking church. Rogers is a retired army chaplain. He has also pastored churches in the Tupelo and Hattiesburg areas. He and his wife Joyce are currently members of 38th Avenue Church in Hattiesburg.



Rogers



**Euclatubba Church, Lee Association,** recently licensed Geoff Wagner to the ministry. Wagner has served as children's minister for the past two years. Pictured (from left) are Johnny Hearn, pastor; Wagner and his wife Debbie.



Hearn and The Wagners

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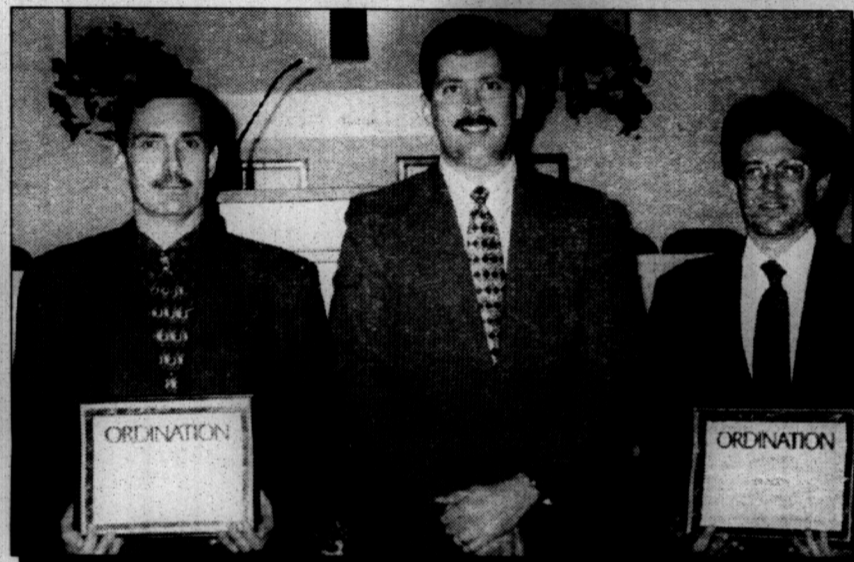
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**First Southern Baptist Church, Pearlington,** ordained Kevin Schill and Jay Hosty as deacons. Pictured (from left) are Schill; Mark Hayman, pastor; and Hosty.

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**Oral Church, Sumrall,** ordained David Kinsey and Mark Armstrong as deacons on Feb. 21. Thomas McCormick, former pastor, delivered the ordination sermon. Pictured (from left) are Kinsey, Armstrong, and Harvey Fillingane, deacon chairman.

### WMU to sponsor 'Mom and Me Day'

Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) will hold Mom and Me Day for preschoolers (ages 3 to pre-first) and their parents Saturday, May 1, 1999 at Camp Garaywa, Clinton from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Theme will be "2 by 2." Cost is \$5 per person (lunch included).

To register or for more information, contact Debbie Sills, WMU, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Telephone (601) 292-3320 or 800-748-1651.

Deadline to register is April 23.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**Sixth-five members** of the Lafayette/Marshall 1999 mission team went to Coruma, Brazil, Feb. 23-March 5. The team built a church building that consisted of an auditorium and six classrooms. In addition, a team of VBS workers ministered to hundreds of children, and there were 26 professions of faith. The medical team saw 150 patients a day and the pharmacy gave out free medications. The evangelism team held services in the park in Coruma, preached on the streets, at the clinic, in churches and schools, and door to door. There were 1,003 that prayed to receive Christ as their personal Savior. Don Stanfill, director of missions, was coordinator for the team.

**Youth of Antioch Church, Copiah Association**, made 115 witness bracelets for the Voice of the Martyrs Organization to use in Sudan to witness to people who can't read.



**Youth of Antioch Church, Copiah Association**

Pictured (from left) are Sara Brown, Frankie Sawyers, Brooke Hall, Drew Rymes, Craig Sawyers, Phil Fortenberry, Dexter Rymes, and Sarah Fortenberry.



**GAs of Madden Church, Madden**, made and delivered 26 valentines and sang for the residents of the Madden Memories Nursing Home. Pictured (from left) are Amanda Dearman, Bailey McCann, DaKota Thaggard, and Adrianna Thaggard.

**Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson**, will honor Byron R. Malone April 11 on the occasion of his 27th anniversary as pastor. A special love offering will be presented to him from the membership.

**Indian Springs Church, Laurel**, will host the Dixie Echoes in concert on May 2 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Indian Springs Church by calling (601) 428-1279.

**Jean Willoughby**, consultant, National TeamKid, will conduct a TeamKid Workshop at Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, April 10, from 1-3 p.m. "Anyone who works with 3 year olds through 6th grade will benefit from this event," said Jerry Mixon, pastor. No registration is required and no reservations. There is no fee to attend.

**Gospel singing** with The Pfeifers, The Perrys, and Tony Gore and Majesty will be held at Zion Hill Church, Wesson, April 9. For more information, contact Billy Ashley at (601) 643-5847.

**Calvary Church, Columbia**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on April 17 and 18. Saturday services will begin at 4:30 p.m. with Robert Toney in charge of the program. Supper will be served immediately afterwards in fellowship hall. Sunday services begin at 10:15 a.m. with Murray Edwards and Bobby Waggoner as guest speakers. Lunch will follow at the church. Afternoon services begin at 1:30

with Gerald and Cindy Simmons, music evangelists.

**Spring Festival** benefiting South Central Resource Center, a family preservation agency operating a shelter in Simpson County for abused and battered women and children, will be held at McNair Springs Park, Magee, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on April 24. Call (601) 847-5802 for more information.



**Cloverdale Church, Natchez**, was one of three churches across Mississippi chosen to promote its outreach initiatives at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's People Reach Expo in Jackson. The event was held on Feb. 27 at the Jim Buck Ross Agriculture and Forestry Museum. Among the many outreach efforts of Cloverdale Church was participation in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life, an overnight event in which teams camp out and take turns walking or running around a track to raise money and awareness of cancer. The team distributed 200 New Testaments. Pictured (from left) are Cyndie Dillon, member of Cloverdale Church, and David McGuffie, pastor, Cloverdale Church. For more information on cancer or Relay For Life, call 1-800-ACS-2345.

## The Mississippi Baptist Foundation



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Seated (l-r) Norris Stampley, Secretary Joe Gary, Robert Maddux, President Robert Ross. Second row, standing left to right: Treasurer Barry Hardy, Ed Jones, Kearney Travis, and Vice President Ron Logan. Not pictured: Jerry Stovall.

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## STAFF CHANGES

**First Church, Hazlehurst,** has called **Lee Allred** and **Clark Rumfelt** to staff ministries. Rumfelt will be working with adults and Allred with students. Allred was licensed to the ministry on Jan. 24 by Church, Brookhaven.



Allred



Rumfelt

Church, Brookhaven. First Church, Hazlehurst, licensed Rumfelt to the ministry on Feb. 17. A reception for Allred and Rumfelt will be held on April 18 at 8 p.m.

**Crenshaw Church,** called **Terry Upchurch** as pastor effective March 1. His previous place of service was minister of education at First Church, Luling, La.

**McAdams Church,** called **James L. Moore Jr.** as pastor effective March 28. A native of Kosciusko, Moore is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, initial work at New Orleans Seminary, and presently enrolled in extension class in Jackson. Moore previously served at West Church.

**Mars Hill Church, Amite County,** has called **Phillip Winter** as pastor. A native of South Carolina, Winter is a graduate of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute and is currently enrolled at New Orleans Seminary.



Winter

**Liberty Church, Mississippi Association,** has called **Jon L.**

**Cooper** as associate pastor/minister of students/activities, effective March 21. Cooper, a graduate of Mississippi College, recently served at Chester Church, Ackerman, as minister of youth and activities. Martin Hayden is pastor.

**Park Place Church, Pearl,** has called **Robert C. Dominy Jr.** as pastor effective April 4. A native of Columbia, S.C., Dominy received his education at Garner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C. His previous place of service was First Church, Pompano Beach, Fla.

## REVIVAL DATES

**New Hebron (Lawrence):** April 11-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Matt Buckles, director, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention

Board, evangelist; Bill Wilkinson, Lenoir City, Tenn., music; David Wilkinson, pastor.

**Macedonia, Meridian:** April 25-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6 p.m.; Jim Brannon,

Meridian, evangelist; Sherry DeVorss, Macedonia Church, music; Jason C. Gross, pastor.

**Enon (Grenada):** April 25-28; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy Joe Pierce, Shreveport, La., evangelist; Jimmy Hood, music.

**New Zion, Crystal Springs:** April 11-14; Sunday will include dinner on the grounds; 7 p.m. nightly; Joe Alds, evangelist; Reggie Bridges, music.

**Cross Roads, Pelahatchie:** April 11-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; April 13, youth pizza party; Gary Bowlin, evangelist; Leroy Stuart, music; Brian E. Hill, pastor.

**D'LO (Simpson):** April 11-14; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve White, Gulfshores, Ala., evangelist; Bob Harris, D'LO Church, music; Robert Sones, pastor.

**Southside, Yazoo City:** April 11-14; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ricky Blythe, Flora, evangelist; Mike Martin, music; H. Bryan Abel, pastor.

## D&FM Dept. to sponsor seminar

Mississippi's Growing Disciples Seminar, (evangelism, mentoring, and families in disciple making) will be held at First Church, Ridgeland, April 26 and 27.

The seminar on Monday will begin at 1:30 p.m. and Tuesday at 10 a.m. Program personalities will include Bill Mitchell, author of "Building Strong Families;" Bill Fay, author of "Share Jesus Without Fear;" Bill Easum, author of "Growing Spiritual Redwoods," and "Sacred Cows Make Gourmet Burgers." Turning Members into Ministers;" and Bob Biehl, author of "Mentoring," and "Wisdom for Men."

For more information, call the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at (601) 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

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William Carey Speech and Debate Team

The William Carey College Speech and Debate Team (Forensics) placed third overall at the Pi Kappa Delta Forensics National Tournament held recently at North Dakota State University in Fargo. The members pictured (back row, from left) are Matthew Smith, McComb; Jason Ruiz, Gulfport; Josh Hewitt, Tupelo;

Brian Lucas, Petal; Ron Durbin, Laurel; Chris Smith, Petal; Danny Panter, Florence; Emanuel Buckley, Hattiesburg; Tom Huebner, director of forensics; (seated) Samantha Cottrell, Hattiesburg; Mandy Mazingo, Poplarville; Mandy Trammell, Florence; Amanda Keith, Hattiesburg; Katherine Rainey, Hattiesburg; Nakia Whitehead, Picayune; and Melanie Grimes, Hattiesburg.

Blue Mountain College's 29th annual basketball clinic for junior and senior high girls will be directed by Coach Jack Moser. Junior high clinic is scheduled for June 6-11 and senior high clinic for June 27-July 2. Further information about the camp may be obtained by calling (601) 685-4771, ext. 146.

William Carey College Theatre will present "The Matchmaker" by Thornton Wilder as its final production of the 1998-99 academic year. Performances will be held at 8 p.m., April 8-10, in the O. L. Quave Theatre on the Hattiesburg campus. Seats may be reserved by calling (601) 582-6221. The box office will be open daily from 1-4 p.m.

William Carey College (WCC) will host the 15th annual Conference on the Elderly Mentally Handicapped Mississippian April 30 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. in the Kresge Room of the Thomas Business Building on the Hattiesburg campus. Mary Harper, formerly with the National Institute on mental Health, will deliver the keynote address. The seminar is sponsored by WCC, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Boswell Regional Center, and the Mississippi Chapter of the American Association on Mental Retardation. For additional information or registration materials contact Paul Cotton at (601) 582-6416, or write William Carey College, Box 14, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5499.

Blue Mountain College is accepting applications for May intersession courses and summer school. May intersession will be held May 3-14. A short computer course will also be offered June 7-18. The first session of summer school starts June 2. The office of admissions can be contacted at (601) 685-4161 or 1-800-235-0136.

## Lottie Moon goals surpassed

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East Moss Point, Moss Point	3,500	3,954.25
First, Amory	37,000	41,886.39
First, Coldwater	11,000	11,025.00
First, Crystal Springs	10,000	15,305.00
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First, McComb	36,540	39,646.60
First, Picayune	42,000	44,058.13
First, Yazoo City	30,000	47,271.09
Hebron (Carroll-Montgomery)	1,750	1,925.00
Liberty (Mississippi)	5,500	5,635.00
Macedonia, Brookhaven	7,250	9,012.45
Mt. Horeb (Covington-Jeff Davis)	3,000	3,453.39
Mt. Moriah, Bruce	2,600	2,846.22
Mt. Olive (Carroll)	4,000	4,129.10
Rocky Creek, Lucedale	10,000	10,148.59
South McComb, McComb	5,000	5,001.01
Summerland, Taylorsville	2,200	8,050.00
Walnut Grove (Leake)	3,500	3,525.00
West Ellisville, Ellisville	7,500	20,197.52
Woolmarket, Biloxi	5,000	5,372.77

## A. H. Germany, 81, dies

Archie H. Germany, 81, emeritus professor of chemistry at Mississippi College (MC), died March 30 of cardiopulmonary arrest at the Methodist Medical Center in Jackson. Funeral services were held on April 1 at First Church, Clinton, with a graveside service at Clinton Cemetery.

A native of Dixon, Germany was a graduate of MC and earned his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina. He retired at MC in 1983, having served as chairman of the

Division of Science and Mathematics for 22 years. Upon retiring, he established a fund for the A. H. Germany Science Forum. MC awarded him the honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1983.

Germany had been married to the former Margaret Longino for 53 years when she died in 1996. Survivors include three daughters, Jean Mosley of Tulsa, Okla.; Betty Baugh of Lake Jackson, Texas; Alice Nettles of Clinton; and six grandchildren.

## Correction

Bruce Brady, Baptist Student Union director at Copiah-Lincoln Community College, was incorrectly identified in the April 1 edition of The Baptist Record.

## HOMEcomings

**Bond, Philadelphia:** April 25; services begin at 11 a.m. with message by Doug Chatham, former pastor; lunch served following services.

**Crowder, Crowder:** April 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; followed by lunch in Family Life Center; Ben James, pastor, preaching; Steve Warren, music.

**Wesson, Wesson:** April 25; 10:45 a.m. service followed by dinner on the ground; 7 p.m. service will feature "New Life," a gospel quartet.

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Deadline is April 28, 1999

## LIFE AND WORK

### Through fear to faith

Judges 6-8

By Doug Bain

Therapists know that fear can be a problem emotion because of the way we handle the feeling. Although fear is God-given to provide for our safety, our responses to fear are often immature. Fears can be very subtle, like fear of failure, rejection, powerlessness, or insignificance. In attempts to cope with fear, people resort to achieving, self-indulging, accumulating, gambling, or astrology. In response to fear they may lash out in hostility. Mistaken ways of dealing with fears typically amount to escape. Fears, if evaded and not faced, eventually control us. Christian faith

in God can deliver us from irrational fear, but it is not an escape route from fear itself. By deep trust in God, believers are led to a healthy resolution of their fear. The text in Judges suggests that we can move through fear to faith.

**Refuse to focus on circumstances (vv. 11-13).** Gideon "bought into" the fear sweeping the land. As the Hebrews struggled for national identity and were disobedient in the process, they suffered at the hands of enemy nations. Their focus and therefore their fear came to rest on the threat from other nations, focusing on circumstances



Bain

rather than on God. Gideon, fearing the Midianites, was not typically threshing grain at an open place on the edge of the village but in the protected and confined space offered by the wine press. As the people had expressed doubts that the God of Egyptian deliverance could not be the God of Midianite deliverance (1-10), so Gideon (13) reflected the same doubt. Circumstances seemed to cancel God's presence. Gideon's need was to lift his eyes above the horizon set by the Midianite threat and focus on the power of God. We too can get caught in the cycles of escape, running scared, because we have lost sight of God's power to deliver within fear.

**Listen to God's assurance (vv. 14-16).** Precisely when we are running scared, "threshing grain at the wine press," doubt-

ing God, God speaks words of healing. "Stop running from your fear and go out against the Midianites." But Gideon is still on the run! Rather than focusing now on circumstances, he focuses on his lack of qualifications. "My clan is weakest; I am the least." Gideon again compounded his fear by attempting escape. God addresses that vicious cycle with the assurance of his presence. That Presence keeps fear from controlling us; that Presence assures our victory.

**Accept God's encouragement (vv. 20-24).** Instead now of escaping his fear, in the midst of it Gideon turns to God. Yes, he still fears - observe the doubt, the need for assurance, the plea for a sign (17). Gideon had at least turned to God, and God worked with him, where he was in laying to rest his doubts and strengthening him during fear. God does that for us. He

takes us in the midst of our fears and leads us to confident focus on his provision so that we can move through fearful doubt to obedience.

**Respond in faith (vv. 33-35; 7:19-21).** These verses portray a warrior victorious against incredible odds - a far cry from the cowering figure at the wine press. Here is one who moves from escaping fears and being controlled by them to receiving assurance of God's presence and power. Gideon responded in faithful obedience as God's Spirit led him to face the source of his fears and his fear of fear. This picture speaks volumes to the fearful heart, running scared, controlled by fear. Facing the cause of fear, with confidence in God's powerful presence, offers the promise of victorious faith.

*Bain is chairman and professor of the Biblical Division at Blue Mountain College.*

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Triumph over agony

Psalms 22:1-8, 16-19, 22-24, 26-27

By Ken Hester

The 911 emergency system is state of the art. A caller might not be able to say what the problem is. So when the call is made, your telephone number, address, and name is displayed before the dispatcher. Also listening in are the police, fire department, and paramedics. All one has to do is call, and help is on the way. Prayer is God's 911 emergency system. God doesn't need our words, just our willingness for his help. When we pray, he knows our name and circumstance. Help is on the way.

Such is the case for the writer of Psalm 22. David's authorship of this psalm is

overshadowed by Christ who spoke the beginning words as mentioned in Matthew 27:46. Martin Luther once wrote, "I know not whether any Psalm contains matter more weighty which our Lord and Head, Jesus Christ, uttered when conflicting for us in the midst of the pains and terrors of hell. Wherefore, this Psalm ought to be most highly prized by all." Whether the one who is in trouble is David, Jesus, or you, prayer seems to be the best method of help.

**We need to learn to pray hopeful.** The psalmist prayed even through the hurt of feeling abandoned by God (1). By his use of the Hebrew "El," which



Hester

denotes God's strength, he signals his trust in God's ability to deliver. He is questioning God's position, not his power. He also prayed through the hurt of confusion. He did not understand why he felt disconnected with God. He recalled past patterns of deliverance to help him understand his present reality. God comes to those who praise him (3). God delivers those who trust him (4-5). Even though he did praise and did trust, trouble surrounded him. He was rejected by people (6). His faith in God was mocked (7-8). Though hurt, he prayed and became hopeful.

**We need to learn to pray hopeful.** With amazing detail of these next verses, one cannot break from thinking about Jesus' crucifixion. Charles Spurgeon wrote, "We should read reverently, putting off our shoes from off our feet, as

Moses did at the burning bush, for if there be holy ground anywhere in Scripture it is in this Psalm." Yes, the situation of both King David and King Jesus was horrible (16-18), but the evidence of hope is revealed in the asking for help (19). Hopeful praying leads to hardy praying.

**We need to learn to pray hardy.** The psalmist decided to stand against the villains of faith by making an offensive charge (22). Declaring God's name was staking a claim on God's character. Then, just as he promised, he followed with action. He declared God's glory (23). Then, by faith, he declared God's goodness (24). When the hardy praying of faith weathers the storm of doubt and confusion, hallelujahs are not far off.

**We need to learn to pray "hallelujah."** Spurgeon wrote, "It is well to mark the order of conversion as here set forth: they shall 'remember' - this is reflection, like the prodigal

who came unto himself; 'and turn unto Jehovah' - this is repentance, like Manasseh who left his idols and 'worship' - this is holy service, as Paul adored the Christ whom once he abhorred."

One might wonder how a person can question the presence of God in verse one and rely on the presence of God by verse 27. The answer was given in verse three. The Lord inhabits the praise of his people. When the Lord hears us putting our hope in him with a resolve to keep it there, then help is not far off.

Questions for class discussion: What seems worse: God's distance or people's mocking? How does David express his faith in the midst of these struggles? During personal struggles, how does it help to know that Jesus experienced despair? What praises might you sing about the Lord's deliverance in your life?

*Hester is pastor of Mantee Church, Mantee.*

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### From doubt to faith

John 20:19-29

By Beth W. Cape

Poor Thomas. Whenever someone thinks of Thomas the disciple they automatically think "doubting Thomas." What a legacy to be the one who doubted! In the New Testament Thomas is mentioned several times when all the disciples are listed. Only in the book of John do we see some hints of his character and more about who he really was besides just being another one of the disciples.

In that much-loved passage of John 14, one can imagine Jesus as he tells the disciples, "Let not your heart be troubled.

You believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go to prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there you may be also." Imagine Jesus' calming voice as he tried to reassure his disciples about the future.

But then his speech is interrupted by Thomas who exclaims, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Thomas didn't understand what Jesus was saying. He was



Cape

a questioning kind of person. If he didn't know the answer, he wasn't afraid to ask. He wasn't the type to just be quiet and always regret that he didn't ask.

He knew that Jesus would soon be gone and it was important that he know how to find him. He was a practical, pragmatic type, maybe even somewhat pessimistic. Even though he had seen many miracles, there was no guarantee that there would be any more miracles, especially since Jesus was gone.

In John 20 the Bible says that Thomas wasn't with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared to them. Where was he? Though it is not known for sure, it could have been that he was mourning Jesus. Maybe his grief was too great to want to be around other people. When the

disciples told him of Jesus' visit to them, Thomas couldn't believe it. He was too afraid of being hurt again. He had loved Jesus deeply and had been hurt. Unless he could feel the nail prints himself, he couldn't believe in such a miracle. People just didn't come alive after they had been dead. It defied reason. It was impossible!

Jesus knew Thomas. He knew his weaknesses. He knew his strengths. He didn't scold him for doubting. He knew Thomas needed a little proof. Jesus was patient with Thomas's doubting just as he is patient with us and our doubting.

How like Thomas we are! We like things we can see - sure things. We forget that "impossible" is one of God's favorite words. "All things are possible to him who believes" (Matt. 19:26). We are too content in our small worlds, with our small problems, and our

small faith. The devil makes sure that we are so busy with our everyday problems that we don't have time to think of the things of God. If we're too busy to think deeply, we never have time to dream, to imagine the impossible. Like Thomas we have seen great miracles in our lives but how quickly we forget them.

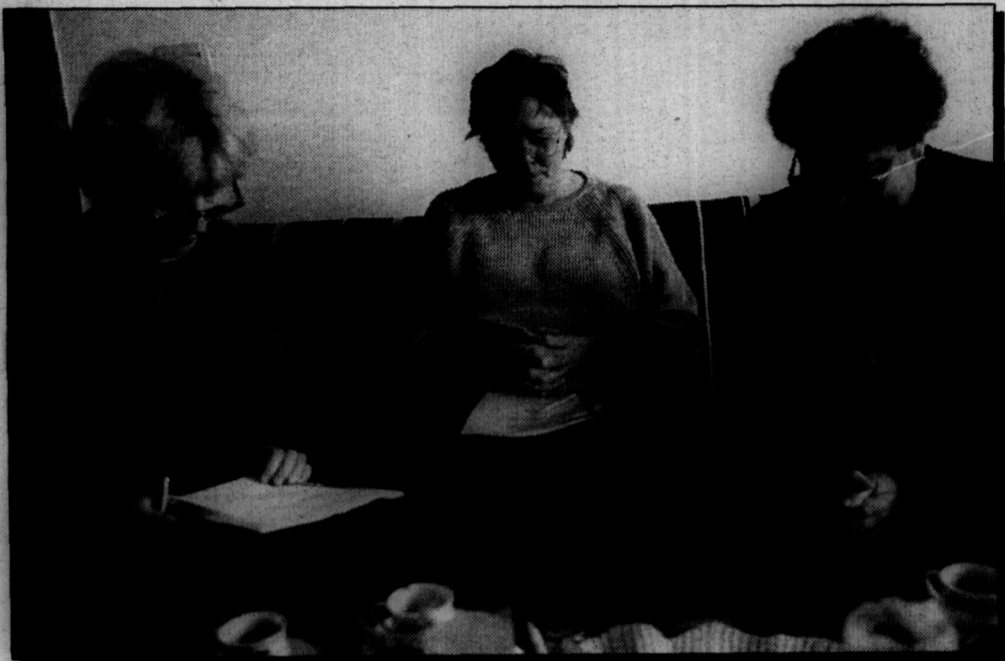
Set aside some time this week to dream of the impossible - to imagine what God could do through your life if you were willing. Remember the words "to him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly beyond all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20).

Dream big! He is able! And then hear Jesus as he speaks to you in the same words that he said to Thomas, "Stop doubting and believe!"

*Cape is director of children and family ministry at First Church, Picayune.*

# Sarajevans seek Christ despite war's horror

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (BP)—The sun is but a memory. Jerry Worley pauses for prayer with her translator, Vedrana Peka, then drives the steep, winding roads leading into the hills that cradle Sarajevo below. From here, the lights of the city wink like a faceted jewel.



## PRAYING TOGETHER

Prayer was a hallmark of the ministry Southern Baptist missionary Jerry Worley (right) and her husband, Bob, had for years in Spain and the Canary Islands. Now it marks their ministry in Bosnia, where Serbs, Croats, and Muslims are finding God's peace through the Worleys' witness. Above, Worley prays with Gordana Stjepanovic (left) and Vedrana Peka prior to a Bible study. (BP photo by Grace Robinette)

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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UDI Q TSBF MYFSIFY  
NQIGFRR ITSG ITSI AX  
ZATG: XAY ITF NAYVR  
NTQET ITF XSIFY TSIT  
MQBFG JF IA XQGQRT,  
ITF RSJF NAYVR ITSI Q  
KA, UFSY NQIGFRR AX JF,  
ITSI ITF XSIFY TSIT RFGI  
JF.

ZATG XQBF: ITQYIW-RQL

Clue: U = B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: James One: Twenty-Five.

Worley and Peka are late. They should have arrived earlier in the day when there was light, but there have been delays.

Inside is a narrow room, framed in cement, brick and tile, and lit with a 40-watt bulb. The window is covered with plastic. A small, wood burning stove warms the far end. The three women huddle over a wooden table near the stove. First they pray, then the Bible study begins.

The Worleys were among the first Southern Baptist missionaries to begin work in Bosnia following the war. Volunteers who agreed to come for six months, they later decided to transfer permanently after 27 years of missionary service in Spain and the Canary Islands.

"When we came, the truth is, I didn't have a clue how to begin," Bob Worley says. So he and Jerry turned to the one constant that has been at the heart of their ministry through the years: prayer.

They had brief partnerships with three translators, two of whom made professions of faith in Christ. Then God led the Worleys to Vedrana Peka, the aunt of their third translator.

Worley and Peka formed a close bond. For two hours each day, Peka helps Jerry Worley hone her conversational skills.

Then they memorize Scripture together in Bosnian. Peka has become a Christian. She is beginning to lead Bible studies with Worley's help. Through her, Worley is multiplying her ministry.

This weaving of lives brought together through prayer is the framework of a great tapestry. Something of the whole can be seen when they gather together for worship.

They meet in Dobrinja, a neighborhood that was part of the front line during the war. Minefields are still being cleared from the surrounding area. Its houses still bear the scars. Some are shattered beyond repair. No one was untouched. Hundreds died here. Some say death still stalks the streets.

Inside, the music is lively. There are more praises than petitions. There is celebration for the bright moments in life. Of the 20 people gathered, all but two were baptized this past year.

They are Serb, Croat and Muslim, people whose knives were at each others' throats a few short months before.

When Bob Worley rises to speak, he asks: "What is your first priority?" And answers: "Your relationship with God."

"When Bosnia is won to Christ, it is going to be won by you."

## NOBTS trustees approve campus master plan

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — A master plan document detailing a progressive total renovation of New Orleans Seminary's current buildings and property received unanimous support from the seminary's board of trustees during their annual spring meeting March 16-17.

The seminary has been operating in just under 800,000 gross square feet of facilities on 86 acres of land, supporting a residential student population of 1,200. The new master plan, including expanded campus housing and new recreation and conference facilities, brings the total area to approximately 1,070,000 gross square feet for a projected residential student population of 1,500. In addition, campus parking will increase from 1,608 spaces to 2,180 spaces, all on property the seminary currently owns.

Some prominent features of the master plan include:

- ◆ a network of arcades to link the Hardin Student Center area with the chapel quadrangle area and its academic buildings, as well as the residential areas. The master plan reestablishes the historic quadrangle area as the heart of the campus by adding a plaza area between the two, along with a system of landscaped pedestrian walkways.

- ◆ a prayer garden and water fountain, to be located behind the Roland Q. Leavell Chapel.

- ◆ a wellness center, to contain a gymnasium, tennis courts, a pool, separate spaces for youth and student activities, and the beginning point for a new campus jogging trail.

Implementation will be over the next 15-20 years. The next project that administrators are set to address is a financial feasibility study.

In other business, trustees:

- ◆ re-elected William A. Hanberry of Hattiesburg, chairman of the board of trustees; Ronald B. Jackson Sr. of Gaffney, S.C., vice chairman; and Michael A. Claunch of Slidell, La., secretary-treasurer.

- ◆ honored 40-year employee Almetta Quinn

*New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary*



Wilson with a standing ovation and a resolution of appreciation. Trustees honored her on March 17,

the day New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial officially had proclaimed "Almetta Wilson Day" in the city. Wilson, director of janitorial services, will be honored again at the seminary on April 15 during a special chapel service and at a reception.

- ◆ approved promotions for Darryl K. Ferrington, now associate professor of music education, who also was granted tenure; R. Allen Jackson, now associate professor of youth education; Harold R. Mosley, now associate professor of Old Testament and Hebrew; Charles L. Register, now associate professor of

evangelism; Kenneth B. Taylor Jr., now associate professor of urban evangelism; Gerald L. Stevens, now professor of New Testament and Greek; and Gerald D. Wright, now professor of missions.

- ◆ approved naming Macklyn W. Hubbell, who retired in December of last year, professor emeritus of psychology and counseling.

- ◆ endorsed naming A. Perry Hancock associate professor of discipleship, occupying the Broadmoor Chair of Discipleship; Hancock also was appointed associate dean of the graduate faculty.

- ◆ OK'd \$11.8 million budget for the 1999-2000 academic year.

- ◆ endorsed a full restructuring of existing masters degree programs, with a new core of classes, including an emphasis on interpersonal skills and a one-year mentorship with a professor and a small group of peers; and a new competency-based curriculum, "the largest curriculum change in the history of New Orleans Seminary, putting the local church at the heart of the curriculum," Charles S. Kelley, president of the seminary, said.

- ◆ heard a report putting current non-duplicating student enrollment at 2,221, with approximately 80% of students male and 20% female, and with students from 35 countries and 32 U.S. states.

## Welcome to Mississippi



Jim Futral (right), executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Bill Hardin (left), pastor of First Church, Picayune, talk with Fermin Whitaker, executive director of the California Southern Baptist Convention, after Whitaker spoke at chapel services in the Baptist Building in Jackson. Whitaker was in Mississippi to visit First Church, Picayune, which for the past 13 years has sent construction crews to help build California Baptists' state campground. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)